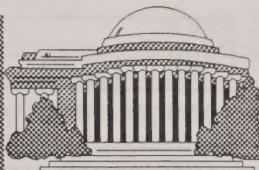


The Capitol Hill Monitor



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PARTS OF BOLLING AIR FORCE BASE AND NDW GO TRUNKED

By Alan Henney

Bolling Air Force Base and the Naval District of Washington (NDW) taxi dispatch joins the Health & Human Services Department, the Holocaust Museum and what may be the National Archives on a five-channel federally owned trunked system. This makes a rather crowded system.

Confirmed on the trunk is the Bolling AFB Security Police, who identify as "Bolling" and the units as Police, followed by a number. (Fire services are provided by NDW on 148.30.) Other Bolling elements may also be using the system but have not been confirmed. The old SP frequency, 163.4875, is no longer in use.

The NDW operates sedans ("taxis") in the Washington metro area that are used to transport persons on official business between the many Navy and Marine locations, and other DoD facilities for use by those whose offices does not have assigned vehicles. This is in addition to the buses operated by all the services on set routes. The Navy taxis were formerly dispatched on 142.00 and 142.10, which no longer appear to be in use.

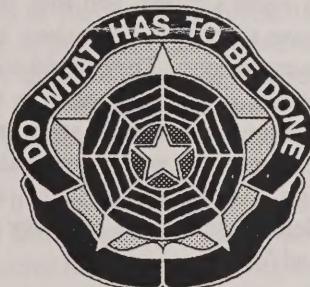
Frequencies for the five channels appear below. Other frequencies may exist or may be added in the near future.

406.850	(416.275 in)
408.450	(418.025 in)
408.900	(419.775 in)
406.250	(414.925 in)
408.700	(418.425 in)

U.S. ARMY CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION (CID) COMMAND

By Bill Hardman

One of the lesser known commands, outside the Army, is the US Army Criminal Investigation Command (USACIDC), headquartered at Fort Belvoir. The "CID" in the middle of the acronym is an historical carry-over from World War II and stood for "Criminal Investigation Division" (please, division, NOT detachment) which coordinated criminal investigations from the then Office of the Provost Marshal General.



Since that time, both the special agents and the organization, by whatever name, have been referred to as "CID". CID units, until 1971, were operationally decentralized under the individual Provost Marshals (please, only one "I") of the various Army commands and installations. In 1971, USACIDC was organized and assumed command and control of all CID elements worldwide.

USACIDC has two major responsibilities. One, they investigate all felony crimes of Army interest -- anywhere, anytime. This includes any felony committed by Army personnel or on Army property or involving an Army contract or any other such direct affiliation with the Army, anywhere in the world. CID also conducts war

crimes investigations. In short, they are the Army's detectives.

Unlike the FBI and their sister services, they do not conduct counterintelligence investigations. Criminal investigations involving intelligence are conducted, in close coordination with appropriate intelligence agencies, when a crime has been committed, including espionage. They do, like any law enforcement agency, perform a criminal intelligence mission. In wartime, the scope of the mission expands as required and all agents are required to be "combat-ready".

Two, they provide personal protection to selected senior persons of both the Army and Department of Defense. In this area they operate much like the Secret Service. Protectees include the Secretaries of Defense and the Army, Army Chief of Staff, and selected Unified Command commanders or other persons designated by "proper authority". In the past, this has occasionally included "advisors" to certain foreign dignitaries, such as Haile Selassie of Ethiopia.

The command is organized into five elements:

Crime Records Center -- located at Fort Belvoir, the center maintains a complete record of all reports of investigation and associated materials. The center maintains over 2.3 million records going back to 1950 and also serves as the command's Freedom of Information Act agent. In the latter capacity, it processes almost 2,000 requests a year. The CRC also administers the Army law enforcement polygraph program. CID conducts about 1,700 such examinations a year.

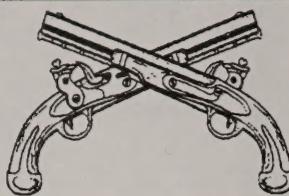
Criminal Investigation Laboratory -- located at Fort Gillem (Atlanta), GA, is a full-scale forensic laboratory and has the technical specialists to conduct virtually

any type forensic examination. This includes chemical analysis (serology, toxicology, DNA, etc.), questioned documents (handwriting, typed and printed documents), ballistics and toolmarks, advanced photography, finger-print examination and comparison, and computer forensics.

Three Military Police Groups (CID) -- these three units are brigade-level commands. Two of them, the 3rd MP Group (CID) at Fort Gillem, GA and the 6th MP Group (CID) at Fort Lewis, WA are primarily responsible for 11 (total) subordinate units throughout the world that conduct the bulk of criminal investigations. The 3rd Group area is the U.S. east of the Mississippi, and includes Europe and the Middle East. The 6th Group has the area west of the Mississippi, and includes the rest of the world.

The 701st MP Group (CID) at Fort Belvoir is unique. It includes three specialized units: The *Field Investigative Unit* which conducts sensitive investigations and/or those requiring access to special (highly classified) information; The *Major Procurement Fraud Unit* which conducts the type investigations its name implies; The *Protective Services Unit* which is described above and provides personal protection to selected senior people.

CID special agents are an elite element in the Army and the law enforcement community at large. Entry criteria are very high. In addition to the expected background investigations and lack of a criminal record, applicants must have completed at least two years of military service, be 21 years old, have at least two years of college, and have served six months as a MP or one year as a civilian police officer or serve a six-month special internship with a CID unit. All CID special agents, with one exception, are military personnel. The exception is in the procurement fraud unit where a very limited number of specialized civilian agents are accepted.



Once tentatively selected, a potential agent goes through an intensive and lengthy training program at the Army Military Police School in Alabama. The agent then remains on probation for over a year during which he/she undergoes intensive "apprentice" training in a CID unit. A probationary agent's "box tops" (credentials) can be lifted at any time. Most such trainees are non-commissioned officers. Once accepted, and after two years service as a special agent, they may opt to become a warrant officer, which requires additional training, including obtaining a college degree.

The training never stops throughout an agent's career, and they often become specialists in various types of investigations. They attend courses at schools in the U.S. such as the FBI academy and selected state and local academies, as well as equivalent foreign institutions, such as the Metropolitan Police Academy at Scotland Yard.

For a long time, scanner enthusiasts could monitor CID activities on various frequencies. They would most often be found on the local MP frequency. In the DC area that is no longer possible for two primary reasons. First, all the CID elements in the area operate on the Fort Belvoir Trunked system (below). Second, like the FBI in this area, almost all of their transmissions on the radio are encrypted. Now you know why the trunked system becomes unlistenable at times!

Fort Belvoir (and others) Trunked System:

406.200 (417.425 in) Voice
 406.300 (416.400 in) Voice
 406.775 (418.000 in) Voice
 407.025 (418.925 in) Voice

408.850 (418.275 in) Voice
 411.200 (419.575 in) Voice
 406.525 Control
 407.950 Control
 409.250 Control



THE MYSTERIES OF IRAC

By Bill Hardman

IRAC, the Interdepartmental Radio Advisory Committee, creates confusion to some of us as to what it is and what its responsibilities are. Hopefully, this article will clear up some of the confusion. Keep in mind, however, that like many governmental agencies, what we think it does, is not always the same as actual practice.

The primary mission of IRAC is to "assist the NTIA [National Telecommunications & Information Administration] in assigning and coordinating frequencies for use by U.S. Government (sic) radio stations". IRAC also "assists... in developing and executing policies, programs, procedures, and technical criteria pertaining to the allocation, management, and use of the (radio) spectrum".

Note that its role is to "advise and assist" not to make decisions. Officially, IRAC provides this advice and assistance to the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information -- who heads the NTIA. In reality, the advice and assistance is given to the NTIA's Office of Spectrum Management (OSM). (Don't you just love all these acronyms?)

The OSM is where the decisions are really made in allocating the federal radio spectrum -- at least within the United States, its territories and possessions. Non-U.S. use is another whole ball of

wax. One of the major divisions within OSM is the "Frequency Assignment and IRAC Administrative Support Division".

Although OSM makes the allocations, IRAC is an effort to coordinate such assignments and ensure that each element of the federal government gets to have some say. (Needless to say, some departments have a bigger say than others). The Office of Spectrum Management also has the task of coordinating what it is doing with what its non-government counter-part, the FCC, is doing in the same area.

To accomplish its role, IRAC consists of a main committee, four subcommittees, a staff group, and 12 ad hoc working groups. The staff group, among other things, notifies the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) of frequency assignments. The four subcommittees include the Frequency Assignment Subcommittee, Spectrum Planning Subcommittee, Technical Subcommittee, and the Radio Conference Subcommittee.

The names are basically self-explanatory, except for the last. The Radio Conference Subcommittee is responsible for preparing for ITU conferences and develops U.S. proposals and positions on various international issues relating to radio spectrum use.

The list of members of the IRAC is about 15 pages long -- essentially, it includes every major department and agency of the federal government. They include, for example, Agriculture, US Air Force, US Army, US Coast Guard, Commerce, Energy, FAA, FCC, FEMA, GSA, HHS, Interior, Justice, NASA, US Navy, State, Treasury, USIA, USPS, VA and National Science Foundation. Some of the smaller agencies, at least by radio use, are "represented by the NTIA". These include the Smithsonian, National Gallery of Art, Architect of the Capitol, NRC, OPM, and many others.

The Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Executive Secretary are all from NTIA and are located in the Herbert Hoover Building (Commerce Department) in Washington. Who the various departments and agencies appoint as their representative varies. For example, the representative for the Department of Agriculture is from the headquarters of the Forest Service. Interestingly, the Defense Department has a representative, but so do each of the services as well.

In overly simplified terms, when a request is made for a new radio system, or to modify an existing system, etc., the request is made to NTIA. Then the request goes to the appropriate IRAC subcommittee and/or working group. There it is reviewed to see if it conflicts with an existing system, or one that some other agency is planning, and a recommendation is given to NTIA's OSM who then acts on the request. Usually, OSM accepts the recommendation of IRAC. If approved, the request is processed and placed in the NTIA database (which is separate and apart from the more commonly known FCC database).

How it gets implemented may be another matter entirely. Those who have monitored federal frequencies know the anomalies, for example, the NTIA database lists frequency "A" as input and "B" as an output. But in use, they are reversed. Then there are the "standard" trunked system groups -- anybody ever heard of one being used?

UPDATES UPDATES

UPDATES

KENNEDY CENTER CHANGES FREQUENCIES

As mentioned in recent CHM newsletters, the Kennedy Center frequency, 411.825, has become part of a local federal trunked system. Security guards at the Kennedy Center now communicate on 461.325 (repeater and simplex). Contract security is provided

by MVM Inc and Security Services. What appear to be Kennedy Center maintenance and housekeeping staff operate on 464.8875 (simplex).

CNN'S WASHINGTON BUREAU CHANGES FREQUENCIES

When CNN's Washington bureau started up, cablecasters were ineligible for broadcast auxiliary frequencies, such as those from the 450-451 MHz and 455-456 MHz bands. As a result, the fledgling cable service ended up on frequencies in the relay press radio service, 452.975 and 453.0.

Like its competitors, CNN needed to provide on-air audio and cues, commonly known as IFB, over the radio to its crews. This was often difficult since the frequencies were shared with non-broadcast media. Several years later the FCC decided to allow cablecasters on the relay press frequencies.

In August CNN switched its 452.975 and 453.0 repeaters to 450.1875 and 450.8875 (CTCSS is still 127.3 Hz). Channel usage appears to have remained the same -- channels 1 and 2 are repeater and talkaround for engineering crews (450.1875); and channels 3 and 4 are repeater and talkaround for the assignment desk and its crews (450.8875).



NEW EMS UNITS FOR DC FIRE

A few weeks ago the District Fire Department obtained two Chevy Blazers (not four-wheel drive) at a cost of \$32,000 each. The two trucks, known as Rapid Response Units 27 and 28, are each staffed with two paramedics and replace two medic units which are now

Ambulances 2 and 9. RRU 27 covers NW and SW, and RRU 28 covers NE and SE. Ambulances 2 and 9 are now staffed by two firefighters on each unit working 12-hour shifts. Ambulance 2 is at Engine 21, and Ambulance 9 is at Engine 18. Our thanks to Jim Davis for bringing this to our attention.

EMS

NEW FAIRFAX COUNTY EMS RADIO DESIGNATIONS

Fairfax County, reports Ken Fowler, has started an EMS-only track for volunteers. This will result in the staffing of medic and BLS ambulances with personnel who are not firefighter qualified and will not be dispatched on fire calls on the initial alarm unless they are needed for a rehab sector. The new CAD and radio designations will add a "B" suffix to the apparatus designation to let the Public Safety Communications Center know that this is an EMS-only staffed unit.

CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE TO GET ITS OWN DISPATCH

Any day now Chevy Chase Village hopes to establish its own 24-hour dispatch operation for its nine-officer police force. This is the 750-home, 2000-resident Village of Chevy Chase, not the nearby Town of Chevy Chase. With a median house purchase price in the upper \$300 thousands, the village is home to some prominent Washingtonians.

Right now Montgomery County dispatches village officers, who identify as 9-M-10 through 9-M-20, on the Bethesda District channel (494.8625). The Village chief identifies as 9-M-10, the captain as 9-M-11, and the remaining officers use numbers between 12 and 20. For the immediate future, Montgomery County will continue to dispatch the village's officers for emergency calls. But the village's planned

dispatch operation will allow police to respond more efficiently to less urgent calls received through the village dispatcher.

A Bendix-King dealer will sell radios to the village. Chevy Chase Village has held a license on 494.3625, a former Anne Arundel County police frequency, which will probably become the village's police channel. The village is seeking full and part-time dispatchers. If you're interested, contact the police chief at 301-654-7300.

SEA COLONY GETS NEW FRE- QUENCY

The Sea Colony Resort, founded in 1953 and built in the late 1960s by Carl N. Freeman, is a 3,000-unit condominium and townhouse development with a half-mile of private Atlantic Ocean beach south of Bethany Beach, Del. Sea Colony is one of the most densely populated areas on the Eastern Shore with a potential summertime population of more than 10,000.

For more than 10 years Sea Colony security and maintenance operated on 151.835 and 151.925. This summer they moved to a repeater on 155.76, a local government frequency allocation. The input is 158.94 and a DCS of 073 is used on input and output. Fire and EMS service is provided by the Bethany Beach and Millville volunteer fire departments.

Sea Colony has been a popular vacation spot for well-known politicians and movie stars, including Al Gore (when he was a senator), Tom Cruise, Tom Selleck, Julie and David Eisenhower and the Nixon family.

Freeman, who appeared on Regardie's top 100 list, began building homes in the Washington area back in 1947, and his firm has since developed single-family housing projects, office buildings, shopping centers, and mixed-use projects. Freeman pioneered the garden-apartment concept and opened the first such apartment complex, the Americana, on Riggs Road NW in 1952.

GROVE "NO-TENNA" ANTENNA REVIEW

by Frank Carson
(FRCARSON@gnn.com)

I recently bought the Grove "No-Tenna" Antenna, and decided to put it through its paces and see how well it performed. Since I've seen no reviews on the antenna, I decided to do a short one and, hopefully, help a few people make a decision about it.

The recent Grove Catalog describes the No-Tenna as being able to "Turn Your Car into a Giant All-Band Antenna" and "using your entire car body as a giant, 1-1000 MHz, all band antenna." It is advertised as being useful under all signal conditions, and "Ideal for city dwellers, travelers, reporters, investigators." It clearly states that the antenna is not for transmitting.

The antenna kit comes in a large zip-loc plastic bag. In addition to the eight-foot wire antenna (which terminates in an RCA type male jack on one end and a lug connector on the other), it comes with a BNC adapter, a 1/8-inch miniature male mono type plug, an alligator clamp, and five adhesive backed wire clips. It also has an instruction sheet with some specifications on it. All of the adapter plugs are metal, and the antenna itself is made of sturdy stranded wire. Both end connections are securely attached. Overall the construction was very nice.

The instructions are clear and easy to follow -- this isn't rocket science! I put the antenna in a 1992 Ford Taurus, and the installation took me about 15 minutes. Once I attached the lug to the metal screw that held my passenger side sun visor in place I was able to easily route the antenna down the "A pillar" (between the glass and the post in the rubber molding) to the bottom of the dashboard. From there I hid the antenna

under the dashboard edge to the center of the dashboard.

There I used two of the adhesive mounting clips to run it up to the ashtray (which I don't use!). That provided a convenient place to store the antenna while it's not being used, and the wire doesn't get pinched. That left enough antenna so that I could lay the handheld scanners that I use on the front seat with no fuss.

Now, the way I tested the performance of the antenna. I used two different types of handheld scanners. The first one is an AR1000XLT, and the second is a PRO-34 scanner. I first used both scanners where I usually place my scanner -- wedged between the arm rests in the center of the front seat. I used the stock rubber duckie antennas on both. The next test was placing the scanners in Grove's new Hand-Held Radio Caddy, which hangs from the driver side door like a drink cup holder.

I then did a "stationary test" (the others were mobile) in my driveway, using the same methods. I also tested each scanner using a magnet mount external antenna on the center of my roof. The final test was using the No-Tenna. In all cases I used the scanners on separate days, and performed all tests over the same routes.

I used samples from each of the major frequency bands (excluding air frequencies). I chose frequencies in each of the bands for both their frequency and how much usage they get so I could be assured a pretty constant supply of chatter. The two excluded bands were not used due to lack of constant use in my area. The test frequencies were Charles County Fireboard (46.420), US Park Police (166.925), Prince George's County Police Channel 9 (494.3125), and DC EMS Dispatch (852.6125).

My route for the mobile tests took me from home to work via Indian Head Highway (near the Charles County line) to I-495 to Central Avenue and to

work near the Addison Road Metro Station. My home route took me from Central Avenue, south on Route 202 (Landover Road), through Upper Marlboro to Route 301 southbound. From there I went to my home in Accokeek via Floral Park Road. This took me in a pretty wide area of reception conditions, from pretty urban areas to rural areas with rolling hills and lots of trees.

During the first set of tests I established a "base-line" reading by monitoring each of the frequencies, using the stock rubber duck antenna inside the vehicle. On the trip to work I began picking up each of the channels very badly about four miles from the Beltway, and the reception got slightly better the closer I got toward the Beltway. The reception stayed pretty much steady once I got on the Beltway, which is to say it was readable, albeit with some static. The trip home saw decent reception until I got to the area of Route 202 near Upper Marlboro, and went down the large hill to Route 725 (Marlboro Pike).

Once on Route 301 the reception was spotty, with clear reception and staticy reception. The most powerful station was Prince George's County Channel 9. Once onto Floral Park Road the reception pretty much was lost for the other stations, though Charles County (46.420), understandably, started to come in better.

With the scanner hung next to the driver's side window there was much better reception on all of the frequencies. Some of the stations faded in and out, dependent on terrain, on the route home. But, toward the Beltway, the DC area stations were pretty constant in their reception. All were quite readable.

Using the Grove No-Tenna was the next step. The performance was pretty comparable to having the scanner mounted next to the driver's side window, though a little less. I didn't see any dramatic improvement in reception at all. This was true for all frequencies

tested.

I performed the same tests stationary in my driveway. Again, the performance of the No-Tenna pretty much matched what I got with the scanner hanging next to the window. I did find one drawback to the No-Tenna which wasn't evident during mobile testing. There was a significant difference in the reception depending on where you placed the handheld scanner.

In one position there was no reception, and in another there was readable reception. After some experimenting I determined that it was due to the positioning of the "lead-in" of the antenna wire between the dashboard and the scanner. Obviously there was some directionality exhibited by that length of wire. I checked the antenna for shorts, crimps, etc., and found none.

In conclusion, I found that I didn't gain any real benefits from the No-Tenna over placing my scanner next to the driver's side window. The performance of the No-Tenna was similar to having my scanner next to the window using the stock rubber duck antenna, but the window method was a little better. Reception with the No-Tenna was slightly better than with the rubber duck antenna between the front seats. I did say in the beginning that I also tested using a magnetic mount external antenna. I didn't really mention it because, well, there was no contest, as you might imagine. The magnet mount external was the best hands down.

I would really only recommend the No-Tenna if you don't want to use a driver's window hanger for your scanner, or for some reason don't want to use the rubber duck antenna inside the car. Its performance really wasn't that much better than the between-the-seats method.

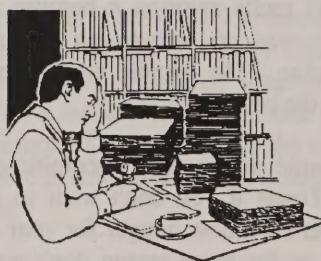
The No-Tenna is available from Grove Enterprises. For a free catalog and buyer's guide, contact Grove Enterprises, Inc. at PO Box 98, 300 S. High-

way 64 West, Brasstown, NC 28902-0098, 704-837-9200 or <http://www.grove.net>. Views and comments appearing in this review do not necessarily reflect those of CHM or represent an endorsement.

FOR SALE. 100-channel Uniden MR-8100 with alpha display, all accessories and restored for cellular. Call Mike McKeahan at 301-282-9748. Mike's price is \$225 and includes the software, cable and other extras.

NEW ADDRESS FOR UNIDEN RE-PAIRS. For in and out of warranty Uniden scanner repairs, send your radio to: Uniden America Corporation, 4700 Amon Carter Blvd., P.O. Box 95002, Fort Worth, TX 76155. For assistance you can call 1-800-297-1023 (or fax 1-800-323-2641). Also try the Bearcat Frequency Hotline at 1-800-448-0414 for information for your area.

NEED ANOTHER BELTCLIP FOR YOUR RADIO SHACK SCANNER OR WANT TO ORDER ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE GREAT PRO-43 SCANNER ANTENNAS? Call Tandy National Parts at 1-800-442-2425 or 1-800-241-8742.



NEWSSCAN

by Brent Baker & Alan Henney

OFFICIAL CODE NAMES. The campaign posters say "Dole-Kemp," but to the Secret Service, when agents whisper into their sleeves, it's "Patriot-

Champion," writes the Aug. 27 Record. Married couples are assigned code names beginning with the same letter. Thus, Dole is "Patriot" and his wife, Elizabeth, is "Pioneer." Running mate Jack Kemp, a former professional quarterback, is "Champion." Joanne Kemp is "Cornerstone." For the record, President Clinton is "Eagle" and Hillary Rodham Clinton is "Evergreen."

TRUNKED RADIO AND NEWS MEDIA RELATIONS. "Trunked radio systems may be the latest and best in communications technology -- but every advance includes a price," warns the July/August 9-1-1 Magazine. In a two-page article by Bob Parker, he says that "Unless encrypted, individual trunked radio transmissions can be heard by the media. That may be enough to pique their interest. But because trunked systems hop from frequency to frequency, the media will never hear that the call was a false alarm, or a natural death." This leads to increased calls to dispatch centers from the media seeking information.

Parker says that agencies which want to maintain good relations with the media include them when designing trunked systems. The City of Seattle, Washington, he notes, wanted the media to monitor some channels -- primarily to cut down on phone calls to the dispatch center. Some of the major Seattle stations have purchased trunked radios and calls to the dispatch center have decreased.

Portland, Oregon took a different path to inform the media. Unlike Seattle, Portland has one dispatch center for the entire county. The committee which set up the trunked system balked at providing radios to the media. Instead, information from Portland's CAD system is made available to the media. The media gets specific information about every dispatched call, including incident type, address, time and units assigned. No complainant information is included, nor is the miscellaneous information field. CAD messages for police calls are not released to the me-

dia until an officer arrives on the scene. Fire calls go out immediately.

DC, THE WORLD'S MOST POLICED CITY. A six-page July Washingtonian article by Harry Jaffe explored the jurisdictional law enforcement problems encountered in the nation's capital. There are 62 state and local police departments patrolling the region with an additional 13 federal police agencies, the article says.

The region has some 12,700 federal, state and local law-enforcement personnel. Add the FBI, federal marshals and US Customs Service agents based here and the total passes 14,000. That's one officer for every 273 residents. More than 6,000 of the 14,000 officers are headquartered in the District, yielding one peace officer for every 95 residents. That compares with one federal or local officer for every 220 people in Baltimore. In Los Angeles the ratio is one for every 358 residents.

Further complicating matters, almost every federal installation in the region has its own police force. The District, Jaffe notes, has more police patrolling its streets than any other city in the country and on a per capita basis is the most policed capital city in the world. Jaffe says four main areas of police cooperation are crucial: information sharing, communication, pursuit policies and training. He cites numerous examples, particularly involving the District, where agencies failed to work together in these areas.

Also mentioned in the article is the Washington-Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). It's a high-tech clearinghouse of data on criminal cases, suspects and investigations in the area which started in 1994 to help police share information. HIDTA is headed by a former MSP official. HIDTA's "watch room" is on the ninth floor of a high-rise office building in Greenbelt. Database managers there can project a map of the area and show where crimes are preva-

lent and where police are about to stage an operation.

DC POLICE PATROL PUBLIC HOUSING. Twenty-five D.C. police officers, the first recruited as part of the new Public Housing Division squad -- officially took to the streets at 13 public housing sites around the city the first week of September, according to the Sept. 7 Washington Times. The officers operate on the district channel where the housing is located and identify as "housing" or "public housing" units.

ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL USES CELLULARONE'S FREEDOM LINK.

A recent Cellular One On The Move newsletter reported that FreedomLink, a Cellular One wireless technology, has been successful helping staffers at Alexandria Hospital communicate more efficiently. Twenty FreedomLink base stations provide wireless phone service throughout the hospital. Users can operate the phones in both external and internal communication modes. With a simple call-forwarding procedure, calls can be directed to the external cellular network.

VOLUNTEERS REPLACE PAID FIREFIGHTERS IN FAIRFAX. The Fairfax County fire department has begun to cut weekend overtime costs by substituting volunteers for some career firefighters, a move that critics say could cause service to suffer. The Aug. 5 Richmond Times Dispatch reported that Chief Glenn A. Gaines began the program in mid-July without announcing it publicly in response to county supervisors' demands that the fire department cut overtime costs in 1997. Under the plan, a paid company is replaced by a six-person volunteer unit at a county fire station every other Saturday.

A Washington Post article noted that Fairfax County has about 300 volunteer firefighters assigned to stations across the county. On a typical day, Gaines said, 30 to 50 volunteers are spread out over Fairfax's 34 stations. But under his plan to cut overtime, volunteers are

making up entire firefighting companies for the first time. The program began July 13 at Station 5 in Franconia.

MONTGOMERY EMPLOYEES CASH IN ON OVERTIME. A Montgomery County firefighter made more money than County Executive Douglas M. Duncan last year, thanks to \$41,000 in overtime pay that raised his earnings to more than \$103,000, reported the Washington Post. A police department dispatcher nearly doubled her \$34,000 base salary with overtime pay, receiving nearly \$60,000 for the year.

A Washington Post computer analysis of the county's payroll -- not including schools and court employees -- showed that about 950 county workers boosted their pay by at least 10 percent by working overtime in 1995. The police department and the Fire and Rescue Services Department account for 35.1 percent and 28.3 percent, respectively, of the overtime paid in the county last year.

BALTIMORE STARTS 3-1-1 SERVICE. Baltimore police are setting up a 3-1-1 non-emergency number for citizens to call rather than 9-1-1, which they say has been overloaded by calls reporting non-life-threatening incidents according to the Aug. 30 Baltimore Sun. A police official said about 60 percent of the 1.8 million 9-1-1 calls the city receives are non-emergency calls.

Baltimore will be the first city in the United States to experiment with a dedicated non-emergency N-1-1 number. Federal officials are viewing Baltimore's 3-1-1 system as a test case for a pilot program that they hope will set up toll-free non-emergency numbers around the country. The 3-1-1 line will be staffed with limited-duty police officers, law enforcement personnel who for injury or other reason are no longer working the streets. The number goes into service Oct. 1.

FAMILY OPERATED 9-1-1 CENTER? At the end of a dusty road in a big log cabin in Manila, Utah, you will find the Erich family. Their phone num-

ber is easy to remember because for the past 15 years, writes the Salt Lake Tribune, all 9-1-1 emergency calls made from Daggett County, Flaming Gorge Reservoir and a corner of southwestern Wyoming ring in the Erich living room.

While one member of the mother-father-son team takes the call via a dedicated phone line or off the VHF marine radio, another Erich gets on the phone, radio or pager system to dispatch an ambulance, search-and-rescue team, fire department or law-enforcement officer to the scene.

They answer calls for help 24 hours a day, making sure that at least one family member is home at all times. And they do it for free. Since 1981, the three members of the Erich family virtually never have left their house together. "Sometimes we can go for a week without one call and then all of the sudden we'll get five or six in a day," says Bert Erich. "We probably get a couple hundred calls a year now, which is a lot more than when we first started doing it."

"By now, we've got the routine down, even when we get a call at 3 a.m.," says Dewey Erich. "We have an awful lot of folks who listen in on scanners so you've got to be careful what you say, be professional. The person you're talking about may have a relative listening."

The State of Utah maintains the radio and electronic gear arrayed on a desk that seems unobtrusive among the hunting-lodge interior of the Erich home, adorned with dozens of mounted elk, bear, deer, antelope and huge lake trout.

Ken Fowler contributed to this month's NewsScan. For the full text of any NewsScan article, contact Alan. As always, please bring any radio-related articles to our attention.

The Capitol Hill Monitor

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Please address all correspondence to Alan. We encourage readers to submit material and to write articles which relate to the hobby. All submissions are subject to editing for both style and content. When submitting material please make certain we have your phone number should we have any questions. We welcome frequency and visitor requests, but please include a SASE.

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The *Capitol Hill Monitor* is the non-profit monthly newsletter of the *Capitol Hill Monitors*. The newsletter keeps scanner enthusiasts abreast of local meetings, frequency profiles and other topics of interest. Dues are \$10 and include 12 issues (back issues cost \$1 each). Kindly make checks payable to Alan Henney. Membership will be pro-rated accordingly in the event of a postage increase.

Meeting Coordinators:
Mike Peyton, Maryland Coordinator (703-749-7379)
Ken Fowler, Virginia Coordinator (703-385-2165)

Frequency Forum Computer Bulletin Board:
We encourage computer users to log onto Jack Anderson's Frequency Forum computer BBS at 703-207-9622 (8-N-1). Frequency Forum is the official electronic gathering place for readers of the *Capitol Hill Monitor*.